



# News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
Washington, DC 20546

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For Release  
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## **FORMER NASA CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES AND VENDOR CHARGED AND ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY**

On June 6, 2000, Bill Mizell of Purvis, MS, owner of MCS Corporation and Magnolia Industrial Supply Company, and a sales representative of Universal of St. Louis, was indicted by a federal grand jury charging him with Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 371, conspiracy to violate the Anti-Kickback Act, Title 41, USC, Section 53. Also indicted for conspiracy were: Billy Boyte of Angie, LA; Eric Townley of Slidell, LA; Clement Delacroix of Picayune, MS; Samuel Jopes of Picayune, MS; and Richard Jones of Picayune, MS. These men are all former employees of Johnson Control World Services, Inc (JWCS), a former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) prime contractor at the Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, MS.

The indictments allege that Mizell conspired with and paid kickbacks to the others indicted in exchange for sales orders made to companies owned or affiliated with Mizell. Orders in excess of one million dollars were placed with Mizell by the co-conspirators during the period of the conspiracy, from on or about January 1994 to the present.

Jones, Delacroix, and Arthur Garcia of Slidell, LA, were further charged with Title 18, USC, Section 641, theft of government property.

Mizell and Jones were additionally charged with Title 18, USC, Section 1001, making false statements to Special Agents of the NASA, Office of Inspector General's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) and the Federal Bureau Investigations (FBI). Mizell was also charged with obstruction of justice for attempting to persuade a co-conspirator to mislead agents participating in a federal grand jury investigation.

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Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:  
800-424-9183

On June 12 and 13, 2000, Mizell, Boyte, Townley, Delacroix, Jopes, and Garcia were arrested by Special Agents from the NASA OCI and the FBI.

These indictments and arrests are the result of a fifteen-month joint investigation by the NASA OCI and the FBI into alleged procurement fraud and theft of government property at the Stennis Space Center. It is estimated that Mizell or companies with which he was associated supplied more than two million dollars worth of material and supplies to the Stennis Space Center (SSC) from 1996 to 1999.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA OCI and the FBI with assistance from the NASA SSC Security Office. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Jay Golden, Southern District of Mississippi, Biloxi, MS, (228) 432-5521.

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